

integral role in the passage of Domestic Partner Registries in both the City of Orlando and Orange County. These registries provide critical protections for unmarried couples in times of emergency. To date, more than 1,000 couples have registered. Michael helped pass Orange County's Human Rights Ordinance, which bans discrimination against the LGBT community in housing, public accommodations, and the workplace. He also contributed to the passage of Orange County's Domestic Partner Benefits for county workers, which allow the spouses of county workers to access important health benefits. Additionally, he helped spearhead the passage of Domestic Partner Benefits and a Nondiscrimination Policy at Orange County Public Schools (OCPS)—the nation's ninth largest school district. These policies provide important healthcare benefits to the spouses of OCPS teachers and protect LGBT teachers and students from discrimination.

In 2012, The Advocate nominated Michael as one of "40 under 40" activists in the nation. He regularly represents Equality Florida's initiatives and programs on local TV and print media, and is a member of the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee.

Michael is a graduate of the University of Central Florida and holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration on American Politics and Public Policy.

I am happy to honor Michael Farmer, during LGBT Pride Month, for his work to secure equality for LGBT individuals in Central Florida and throughout the state of Florida.

#### HONORING SUE MERIMS

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2014*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the strength of any religious institution comes from the love and devotion of its congregation. For Sue Merims, that love and devotion to Congregation Anshe Shalom is a family tradition. Sue's sister, Carolyn, was the first to join the synagogue, followed by her parents, Muriel and Ely Cohen, who were long-time members. Sue was next to join the Anshe Shalom family and has been a standout member now for over 40 years.

Following a 1996 meeting of the Anshe Shalom Board of Directors, Sue became the synagogue's treasurer, a role she still serves in today. She worked tirelessly to sustain and modernize the synagogue's operations, by computerizing its administrative and accounting systems, coordinating events, organizing the Community Seder, and working on the monthly bulletin. Being part of Anshe Shalom has brought joy and comfort to Sue and she considers her special relationship with Rabbi Weinberger and his beloved wife, Hannah, to be a major blessing.

Beyond her work at the synagogue, Sue taught at Millis High School in Millis, Massachusetts before pursuing new opportunities in the travel and food services industry. After 13 years with ARA Services Inc., Sue took a leap of faith and started her own school food service consulting business. For over 25 years, school districts have sought out Sue's expertise, as she has successfully guided them

through upgrading and modernizing their food services environment.

Sue's greatest source of joy however is her family. She is blessed with two loving children and six grand children that she loves dearly.

Anshe Shalom in honoring Sue Merims at their Annual Testimonial Dinner and I can't think of a more deserving honoree. Her dedication to and hard work for the Anshe Shalom community has been an inspiration. It is my great pleasure to congratulate her on receiving this recognition.

#### HONORING TERRY J. HURNE

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of Terry J. Hurne, United States Army Specialist, who died on June 9, 2014, at the young age of 34. Terry was an American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the United States in the Logar Province of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Spc. Hurne was born to Norman and Shirley Hurne on April 9, 1980. He was raised in Atwater, California. He graduated from Atwater High School in 1998 and joined the military in 2007 after working for Central Valley Electric and various construction jobs.

During his time in the Army, Terry served two tours of duty in Afghanistan. For the past five years he served as a generator mechanic and builder. He was assigned to B Company, 710 Brigade Support Battalion, 10th Mountain Division stationed in Fort Drum, New York.

Terry will undoubtedly be remembered nationwide as a hero who fought for our freedoms. His family and friends will hold memories of Terry in their hearts forever. His smile, laugh, and kindness will never be forgotten. Eight years ago, Terry married the love of his life, Natalie, and they built a beautiful life together. Natalie as well as Terry's father; mother; stepmother; Ruth, three sisters; Cheryl, Christina, and Sam, and brother; Bryon will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of our fallen soldier, Army Specialist Terry Hurne. He was an exemplary individual, and we will always be grateful for his service to our country.

#### TRIBUTE TO GILES GIOVINAZZI

#### HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2014*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Giles F. Giovinazzi, Democratic Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Aviation for the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. As Ranking Democrat of the Subcommittee, I had the pleasure of working with Giles on many issues that came before the Subcommittee. His hard work and wise counsel over the past 12 years has been invaluable, and I look forward to continuing to work with him as he embarks on a new endeavor.

Giles began his career on Capitol Hill serving as Legislative Counsel for Congressman JAMES MCGOVERN from 1999 to 2002. Since that time, Giles has served on the Subcommittee in various positions including Counsel, Senior Counsel and Staff Director, since 2009.

Giles is a true public servant and his dedication to the country extends beyond the halls of Congress. Giles is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve where he has served since 2004.

His understanding of complex technical and legal aviation issues, policy and politics, has been an asset to the Committee for over a decade. Giles has been instrumental in drafting significant pieces of legislation including The Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010.

Last month, Giles was appointed federal transportation liaison at the California Department of Transportation and the California High-Speed Rail Authority. His expertise and counsel will be truly missed.

I join my colleagues on the Transportation Committee in wishing Giles, his wife Jolynn, and daughter, Kathryn Maribel, all the best.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2014*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I did not participate in the vote of S. 1044 on June 23, 2014. Unfortunately, I was traveling back from Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and due to inclement weather, I could not get back from my trip in time to vote.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on S. 1044.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,529,945,473,040.66. We've added \$6,903,068,424,127.58 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2014*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 339, I was unable to get to D.C. to make votes due to a personal conflict, a friend's funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."